

The Battle for our Strongholds Josh 5:13+14

There are several New Testament principles that when we read them it may cause us to scratch our head and make us wonder if they are really true.

1st is 2 Cor 10:4 - Paul says we're in a battle (Not referring to drag) not a carnal battle a spiritual battle. Spiritual battles are waged w/ spiritual weapons. Are you losing? 2nd Rom. 8:37. More than conquer. I don't mean conquer nothing. 2 Cor 2:14. Always? Ok if it said sometimes... occasionally... but always? Most of the time I am up & down. But we read these in the Bible. They are true, whether they are a present reality in our life or not. The question is how can we make them a reality. I believe we can find the spiritual weapons in the O.T. Battles. Where these principles are turned into pictures. Tonight: Strongholds: E.C. has..

I. The Arena of the Battle - Where was this battle fought + won. I believe the battle wasn't truly won just outside walls of Jericho but in this meeting between Joshua and this captain of the Lord's host. This arena was

B. A Place of Encounter - The first obstacle standing between them + promise of God was Jericho. Joshua was setting out the city when he had a strange encounter. Joshua asks a great question: Who's side are you on? strange answer: Neither! He said I come to take over.

God's not a side taker. He comes in with a sword but demanding to take over. Lord of Host phrase indicates - He who wins all battles before he fights them. It's a shoe in with him. Lordship Relationship. He owns it all. Josh holds it. I am not in it. Now I am totally naked! It doesn't have to be

C. A Place of Enthronement - vs 14 B. Joshua is on his face. No doubt who this is. He is taken up in worship. Vs 15, loose thy shoe. ch Exodus God told Moses "Shoes off" Here its just 1 shoe. Scene in Ruth where Boaz, attempting to redeem Ruth nearer kinsman taking off the shoe says "I can't but you can. This is a covenant taking place. When a person only has one shoe it will cause them to limp and want to leave something else. The Lord of Hosts is saying "Joshua you can't take this city unless you lean on me." Battle Won

II. The Authority in the Battle - Who's in charge of this Battle? Who has final say in determining the outcome of this battle? The Lord and he has given his word that he will surely give the land to

B. Past Conquering - attests to God's authority

Josh 3:9-11. She said 40 years ago our hearts melted. They were ripe for taking 40 years ago. But God's people wearing a man of carnality and faithlessness. The battle was already won when they came out of Egypt. When it comes to the strongholds of life stop trying to get the victory, you already have it. Rehah says 40 years ago I made you God my God. She has been saved!

What a picture of God's grace! She was a harlot & a Gentile. Law demands she stoning. But thank God where Justice ^{comes} calling

C. Present Covenant - ch 6:1-2 Here we find - Joshua now looking out over Jericho and the Lord says, "You see that city over there! Take it. It's yours!" Joshua may have been looking w/ worry at its walls and its size and its military

2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things (tribulation, or distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword) we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ,...

...the priesthood of Christ. Notice in Romans 8:37, God is bringing us to the same

conclusion in the next verse in the same chapter. 2
Romans 8:37 For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor anything else in the heavenlies, are able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalms 46:10 Be still, and know I am God

It is not you spirit within God does what he says in the Word do. No, you spirit within God will do what the Word do

5. Our weapons of war shall not prevail
but (that) God's Word shall prevail
Romans 10:14
Therefore, let us all please God
by the Word that
comes from the mouth of God
and not from our own mouths
Romans 10:13
Now then, let us all please God
and not ourselves, for
the Word of God
is not in us, but in God.

...priesthood of Christ, Notice a Ram's horn. Reminding us of the ram caught in a thicket representative of Christ our perfect atonement. 7 times around on the seventh day, speaking of the perfect life of Christ. Which in the end puts him at the fathers side making perfect intercession on our behalf. This is the plan for victory. Not your strength but his!

Psalms 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God...

Its not you shout when God does what he said he would do, no you shout trusting that God will do what he said he would do.

night and wondering how in the world... God comes along sick & says, "I've given it to you now go out and take it. The Battle is won, do you trust me?" Joshua's whole perspective has changed.

Battle's got nothing to do anymore w/ Joshua, but now ^{over God's authority}

III. The Arrangement of the Battle - Not only did God give promise but he gave plans for battle. How to arrange troops for battle, how to carry out the battle. Also how often God gives us instructions in his word to fight.

B. A Helpless Plan ch 6:3 - Tell me some things, what happened after they marched around Jericho once a day for six days? Nothing! This is a picture of our own human effort against the strongholds of our life. This is the turning over a new leaf.

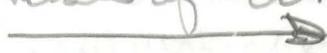
straightening up & out, will get you. Self effort will not bring down walls. Notice what can v54? priest perfect priest

C. A Humbling Plan - v510 This wasn't a once a day trek around the walls of Jericho to yell & scream and attempt to intimidate. Not a chest beating, sword waving rally. This was a humble silent confident reliance upon God's word. Ps 46:10. We must face the strongholds, but in humility.

D. A Hollerin' Plan - v55, 16, But this plan did call for some Hollerin' at one point. Upon being obedient to God. They shouted because God had given them the city. When they shouted, had the walls moved one inch. Nope. They shouted before the walls came down. Some might say, I'll shout when he says so ^{happens} children hold on to me. It's close and it all

IV The Aftermath of The Battle - And the walls came tumbling down as the old children's song goes. God Kept his word! The stronghold had fallen. What were the ^{victory} results

B. See A Line of Kinship - VSS 2

Go in and get her out. She was saved from the destruction and brought out of certain death vs 5. ch Matthew, we see as Paul barley would say "the rest of the story." She was not only saved but the gentile harlot was brought into the family. Married Salmon. Amazing Grace how sweet. She was brought into the family and became a part of the premises of God. Eph 3:12-13 explains this best 

C. See A Line of Kingship - Matthew 1

says that Rahab hid Boaz the kinsmen redeemer Hoor! Calvary covers it all. Notice they drop the Harlot part off of her name. When you get into the royal family all the skeletons in the closet are gone. She then becomes the Grandmother of Eliel which means worship! Ruth Boaz said mama is always dead I will call her wife. She then went on to be the Great Great Grandmother of King David. How is that possible ^{14 greats} ~~13~~ ^{to Jesus} How at the

V. Closing - Are there strongholds in your life. Places you can't take down. The battle is won, the stronghold taken not by your might or strength, but by the surrender to Christ's ability and his word!

Joshua 2:21 a scarlet thread. A red line of redemption hung out the window. From Genesis to revelation there has always been a blood line of redemption. It is tied to Christ in eternity past that goes all down through history and is knotted to him in eternity future. Jesus Christ the same yesterday today and forever. Turn to Matthew Ch1

Ephesians 2:12-13 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.